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clearly that with every drawing of his breath streams of blood spouted from his head, I drew my hunting-knife, and joined my hound in endeavouring to bewilder him with the loudest shouts that I could command, when he yelled frightfully, and turned sideways to seek safety in the mass of underwood; but he soon tottered from side to side, and it was easily seen that his strength was departing. After about thirty steps he lay down. I made immediate use of the time thus offered me to load again, and then was prepared to follow him in safety. He lay quite quietly, made no noise, and used his fore legs, just as a man would his arms, to wipe away the blood from his face. I endeavoured to irritate him again, that he might turn round, and give me an opportunity of aiming at the most mortal part, which succeeded but too completely; for, after having first broken some branches of trees, and thrown them at me with prodigious force, he was excited by me and my hound to such a degree, that, seeing that he had no further chance of escape, he raised himself once more with all his strength, and made a second attempt at rushing upon me, but his fate was sealed. When he had almost touched the barrel of my gun, he received his last mortal wound in his brain, and sank forward, covering me with his blood, and almost burying me under the enormous mass of his body; and the last roar that he gave, exceeded the most terrible that I have ever heard; the tone of it was so full, so deep, so full of despair, and piercing, that the whole forest resounded with it, and the echo trembled as it returned the sound.

"Now came up Floresko, the hounds, and a hundred men, who were astonished, and shuddered as they contemplated the brute, and all poured in upon me their congratulations at having slain the monster who had for so long a time been the terror of the neighbourhood.

"I felt, indeed, very much elated; for I had never been in more imminent danger, and never won a victory that gave me more momentary satisfaction. They were obliged to cut away the underwood, in order to be able to carry the brute to the nearest road. In the mean while Floreski told me that he was afraid that his upper steward, Kostaki, had proved the sacrifice of that day, for he had found him in a frightful condition; and shortly the poor fellow was brought up upon a bier. His appearance was dreadful. His limbs, as well as his clothes, hung down torn to pieces, his entrails protruded from his body, his spine was injured, recovery was out of the question. After horrible torments, he died the same day.

"So did this great beast die, not unavenged; and the joy of our success was too dearly purchased.

"They placed the bear upon a large waggon, yoked with four oxen, in order to bring him to Bucharest. They there skinned him; and found from 780 to 800lbs. of fat, and 963lb. of flesh and bones. From the hindermost part to between his ears, he measured nineteen feet; and according to calculations made upon the theory of Dr. Gall, he must have been from 170 to 180 years old. He was entirely black, and his teeth were much worn away. He was most probably a Siberian bear, that had been from time to time hunted, and received occasional wounds. In his left haunch, and in his back, two arrow heads were found. I gave his skin to the Turkish general, Namik Pacha, who, a short time ago, travelled through Europe, charged with several embassies from the Sultan. I have his skull, and a part of his fat, in my ice-house at Bucharest."

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE BEAR FAMILY.

The bears are the typical group of a very extensive assemblage of animals, which partake, in various degrees, of their general features. In them, the distinguishing character of the beasts of prey appears in its lowest state; for the propensity of rapine almost disappears, or at least does not form a prominent feature in their physical and moral character. Their teeth are comparatively blunt, the claws are no longer suited to the purpose of destruction, but rather fitted for burrowing in the earth, and tearing up the roots upon which they feed. Unlike the dogs, the cats, or the weasels, they are plantigrade—that is, they do not walk upon tiptoe, but place upon the

ground a considerable length of the foot, which is also capable of being bent and contracted so as to hold the branches of the trees, amongst which they often climb. In this habit, and in the flatness of their teeth, we perceive that they belong to that part of their group which borders upon the quadrumanous order, where we find the most expert climbers, as, for example, the monkeys. In these the teeth are fitted for the mastication of all kinds of food, whilst those of the ursine family, at the same time that they retain the power of tearing flesh, are better fitted for the detrition of vegetable substances, which, in fact, form the largest shade of their food. All the other organs conform to the change of character which appears to have taken place in them, when compared with the preceding families, being in perfect accordance with that clumsiness of form, great brute force, stupidity, and voracity, which distinguish the principal animals of this group.

The brown bear was formerly an inhabitant of the whole of Europe, as far south as the Alps and Pyrenees; but he has in modern times been completely extirpated from the British islands, and the interior of France, Holland, and Germany. In the Alps he is still common, as well as in the mountain forests of Bohemia, Poland, and Russia. But his limits are not bounded by the geographical divisions of the continents; he is also found in great numbers in Siberia, and even as far eastwards as Kamtschatka and Japan; and is spread more sparingly over a considerable portion of the northern regions of America. In this vast extent of country it would be surprising indeed if we did not meet with some variations resulting from local circumstances; but these are, generally speaking, of too trivial a nature to be regarded as affording sufficient grounds for specific distinctions. Among the most remarkable we may mention a white variety, totally distinct from the polar bear, which is sometimes met with in high northern latitudes. The cinnamon bear, as it is called, appears to be a variety of the black species, exhibiting the same tendency to albinism, but in a far inferior degree.

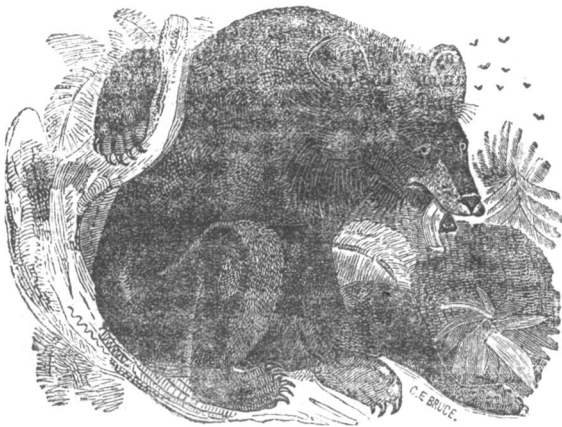
In his more usual condition, the animal is covered with a thick coat of long, soft, woolly hair, which in the younger individuals is of a deep brown with a tinge of gray on the body, and becomes nearly black upon the legs and feet; while in the more advanced age it presents a mixture of yellowish gray and fawn-colour, giving to the fur a grizzled appearance. The forehead rises suddenly from behind the eyes, assuming a regularly convex form, but not elevated to any great extent; the muzzle is broad, prominent, and terminating in a moveable extremity, the mobility, however, being most remarkable in the upper lip, which is capable of being protruded much beyond the nostrils; and the eyes are extremely small. The usual size of the full-grown animal is about four feet in length and nearly two feet and a half in height. The length of the head is about a foot; that of the fore feet eight inches; and that of the hinder feet something greater, reckoning from the heel to the extremity of the claws. The latter are fully two inches in length, considerably curved, and nearly equal on either extremity.

In his native state the brown bear is one of the most solitary animals in existence. Far from seeking the company of his fellows, he remains associated with his female only during a short period, and then retires to his winter retreat. This asylum is generally formed by the hollow of a tree, by a natural cavity in the earth, or by the cleft of a rock; but is sometimes entirely constructed by the animal himself from the branches of trees comfortably lined with moss. Here he continues, for the most part, in a state of lethargy, abstaining altogether from food, and subsisting upon the absorption of the fat which he has accumulated in the course of the summer, from the setting in of the cold season until the return of spring. The female remains somewhat longer in her retirement than the male, and does not quit it until her young are in a condition to follow her example. It is at this period that they are the most dangerous, their hunger tempting them to make prey of whatever may fall in their way. At other times they prefer fruits, roots, and other vegetable productions, to the uncertain supply which they derive from the capture of the smaller, and especially the burrowing, quadrupeds. They never attack man unless provoked; but

when irritated, they are formidable enemies to encounter. In such cases they usually raise themselves upon their hind feet, and endeavour to engage and squeeze their opponent between their fore legs, which are excessively powerful. Notwithstanding the clumsiness of their form, they climb trees with great readiness, and swim with almost equal skill. In captivity they are sometimes taught to exhibit their awkward figures in a variety of forced and ludicrous attitudes.

They sometimes attain a considerable age. In the pits of Berne, where it has been the fashion for many centuries to keep some of these animals, "for name's sake," at the public expense, a pair were living in 1771 which had been confined there for one-and-thirty years. Another individual, which was born in the same pits, was living at the commencement of the present century in the Menagerie of the Jardin des Plantes at Paris, at the age of forty-seven. In both these establishments their only food consisted of bread, occasionally varied by the introduction of fruits and vegetables.

In reference to the general character of the polar bear Mr. Bewick says, that "its ferocity is as remarkable as its attachment to its young. A few years since, the crew of a boat belonging to a ship in the whale-fishery shot at a bear at a short distance, and wounded it. The animal immediately set up the most dreadful yells, and ran along the ice towards the boat. Before it reached it, a second shot was fired, and hit it. This served to increase its fury. It presently swam to the boat, and, in attempting to get on board, reached its fore foot upon the gunnel; but one of the crew, having a hatchet, cut it off. The animal still, however, continued to swim after them till they arrived at the ship; and several shots were fired at it, which also took effect. But, on reaching the ship, it immediately ascended the deck; and the crew having fled into the shrouds, it was pursuing them thither, when a shot from one of them laid it dead upon the deck."



THE THIBET BEAR.

There is no specimen of this animal in the Gardens. From the engraving given above, it will at once be seen that it differs in form and general appearance from any of those we have described. It more closely resembles the description given of the black bear than any other; still there is a striking difference apparent—in the height and breadth of the forehead—the distance between the eyes—and the length of the muzzle or snout, which gives it much the appearance, especially in the head, of an animal of the canine species. The claws are also larger, and more hooked; while the feet and hair with which it is covered, have a much finer and more glossy appearance than that on any of the others which we have described. In these various particulars nature has evidently fitted it for the particular clime and country of which it is an inhabitant.

THE HUNTER—A LEGEND.

BY J. G. WHITTIER, AN AMERICAN POET.

The hunter went forth with his dog and gun,
In the earliest glow of the golden sun;
The trees of the forest bend over his way,
In the changeful colours of autumn gay:
For a frost had fallen the night before
On the quiet greenness which nature wore—

A bitter frost!—for the night was chill,
And starry and dark, and the wind was still;
And so, when the looked out on the hills,
On the stricken woods and the frosted rills,
The unvaried green of the landscape fled,
And a wild, rich robe was given instead.

We know not whither the hunter went,
Or how the last of his days was spent;
For the noon drew nigh, and he came not back,
Weary and faint, from his forest track;
And his wife sat down to her frugal board
Beside the empty seat of her lord.

And the day passed on, and the sun came down
To the hills of the west like an angel's crown;
The shadows lengthened from wood and hill,
The mist crept up from the meadow-rill,
Till the broad sun sank, and the red light rolled
All over the west like a wave of gold.

Yet he came not back—though the stars gave forth
Their wizard light to the silent earth;
And his wife looked out from the lattice dim,
In the earnest manner of fear for him;
And his fair-haired child on the door-stone stood
To welcome his father back from the wood!

He came not back—yet they found him soon
In the burning light of the morrow's noon
In the fixed and visionless sleep of death,
Where the red leaves fell at the soft wind's breath;
And the dog, whose step in the chase was fleet,
Crouched silent and sad at the hunter's feet.

He slept in death!—but his sleep was one
Which his neighbours shudder'd to look upon;
For his brow was black, and his open eye
Was red with the sign of agony;—
And they thought, as they gazed on his features grim,
That an evil deed had been done on him.

They buried him where his father laid,
By the mossy mounds in the grave-yard shade;
Yet whispers of doubt passed over the dead,
And beldames muttered while prayers were said;
And the hand of the sexton shook as he pressed
The damp earth down on the hunter's breast.

The seasons passed, and the autumn rain
And the coloured forest returned again:
'Twas the very eve that the hunter died;
The winds wailed over the bare hill-side,
And the wreathing limbs of the forest shook
Their red leaves over the swollen brook.

There came a sound on the night-air then,
Like a spirit-shriek, to the homes of men,
And louder and shriller it rose again,
Like the fearful cry of the mad with pain;
And trembled alike the timid and brave,
For they knew that it came from the hunter's grave.

And every year, when autumn flings
Its beautiful robe on created things,
When Piscataqua's tide is turbid with rain,
And Coheco's woods are yellow again,
That cry is heard from the grave-yard earth,
Like the howl of a demon struggling forth.

Dublin: Stereotyped, and Printed at his Steam-Press, by P. DIXON HARDY, 3, Cecilia street; to whom all communications are to be addressed.

Sold in London, by Rich. Groombridge, 6, Fanny-alley, Paternoster-row; in Liverpool, by Willmer and Smith; in Manchester, by Ambury; in Birmingham, by Guest, 91, Steelhouse-lane; in Glasgow, by John Macleod; in Edinburgh, by N. Bowack; and in Montreal, by J. Fleming.

Published in Weekly and Monthly Numbers, and in Yearly Volumes.